

Disruptive Time: Parental Leave, Flexible Work, and Superannuation in Australia

by

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Abstract

Reproduction and child-rearing are distinctly gendered, temporalising acts in Australia. As such, reproduction is structured around temporalities of care and labour, and these temporalities emerge and disrupt established orderings in daily life, lifetimes, and larger-scale timelines. This thesis uncovers the underlying conception of time in the Australian legal regimes of parental leave, flexible work, and superannuation and its gendered connotations. As a socio-legal project, this thesis uses existing empirical evidence and theoretical material to conceptualise, critically analyse, and theorise the gendered temporalities of women with children in Australia. By constructing a feminist critique of neo-maternalistic productivism in Australia's parental leave, flexible work and superannuation systems, the thesis provides an alternate theory of disrupted temporalities in maternity.

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CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP

I, Christina Starla Hargita declare that this thesis, is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of co-tutelle PhD, in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis has also been submitted for qualification at the University of Kent as it is the result of research candidature conducted as part of a collaborative Doctoral degree.

This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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